

CUSTOMER NO.: 24498
Serial No.: 10/584,654
Office Action dated: 05/19/2009
Response dated: 09/21/09

PATENT
PD040011

Listing and Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims replaces any prior revisions or listing of claims in this application.

1. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method for searching a database on a disk storage medium, comprising
 - execution of a first search step, the first search step including reading-in disk sectors of the disk storage medium and searching database records stored in said disk sectors read-in, wherein the searching is performed with a search depth matched to a speed of the reading-in of disk sectors such that the reading-in of disk sectors is not interrupted which is used to scan the entire database on the disk storage medium,
 - provision of an intermediate result from the first search step,
 - execution of a second search step in the intermediate result from the first search step, and
 - provision of an end result from the second search step.
2. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 1, wherein the processing speed for the data in the first search step is at least as high as the read-in speed for the data.
3. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 1, wherein only a text search is performed in the first search step.
4. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 1, wherein the first search step involves skipping to search locations from an index list in descending or ascending order on the basis of sorting exclusively according to sector numbers of the disk sectors.

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5. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 1, wherein the intermediate result comprises one or more subresults which are respectively searched in the second search step.
6. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 1, wherein the database is dynamic and is available in fragmented form and in this context the individual fragments are read in successively and a read head skips exclusively in one direction between the fragments.
7. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 1, wherein the data are stored on the disk storage medium in ECC blocks.
8. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 1, wherein the disk storage medium is an optical disk.
9. (currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ An apparatus for searching a database on a disk storage medium, comprising
 - a search device for executing a first search step, the first search step including reading-in disk sectors of the disk storage medium and searching database records stored in said disk sectors read-in, wherein the searching is performed with a search depth matched to a speed of the reading-in of disk sectors such that the reading-in of disk sectors is not interrupted ~~which can be used to scan the entire database on the disk storage medium~~, and
 - a memory device for storing and providing an intermediate result from the first search step, where
 - the search device is also designed to execute a second search step in the intermediate result from the first search step and to provide an end result from the second search step.

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10. (currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein the processing speed for the data in the search device in the first search step is at least as high as the maximum or an instantaneous read-in speed for the data into the search device.
11. (currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein an exclusive text search can be performed in the search device during the first search step.
12. (currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein the first search step may involve the search device skipping to search locations from an index list in descending or ascending order on the basis of sorting exclusively according to sector numbers of the disk sectors.
13. (currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein the intermediate result which can be stored in the memory device comprises one or more subresults which can be searched by the search device in the second search step.
14. (currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein the database is dynamic and is available in fragmented form and in this context the individual fragments can be read into the search device successively and a read head can skip exclusively in one direction between the fragments.
15. (currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein the search device and the memory device are suitable for processing ECC blocks.
16. (currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein the disk storage medium is an optical disk.

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17. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second search steps are executed at least partly in parallel.
18. (new) The method of claim 17, wherein the second search step is executed with lower priority than the first search step.
19. (new) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the first and second search steps are executed at least partly in parallel.
20. (new) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the second search step is executed with lower priority than the first search step.